

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A grease gun having a body, a base joined to the body, a barrel joined to the body, a grease dispensing member connected to the barrel, an elongated grease pumping chamber located in said body and barrel, a grease supply passage in said base and body open to said pumping chamber to allow grease to flow into the pumping chamber, a check valve connected to said barrel to prevent grease and air from flowing back from the grease dispensing member into the pumping chamber, a plunger located in said grease pumping chamber, a power unit connected to said body and plunger operable to reciprocate the plunger in said pumping chamber to pump grease through said pumping chamber and check valve into the grease dispensing member, means mounted on the base for supplying grease to the grease supply passage, the improvement comprising: a threaded hole in said body aligned with the grease supply passage and open to the pumping chamber, a threaded stem located in said threaded hole, said stem having at least one linear side groove open to the pumping chamber, ~~[[and]]~~ a head joined to said stem, said head and stem when rotated in one direction opens the side groove to atmosphere whereby air in the pumping chamber and grease supply passage is bled therefrom and replaced with grease, and said head and stem when rotated in a direction opposite the one direction closes the threaded hole, and an annular seal assembly surrounding said stem adjacent the head engageable with said body when the stem closes the threaded hole to prevent grease from flowing out of the threaded hole and air from flowing into the pumping chamber.

2. (Original) The grease gun of Claim 1 including: a plurality of linear side grooves in said stem for allowing air to bleed from the pumping chamber and grease supply passage.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The grease gun of ~~Claim 3 wherein:~~ Claim 1 wherein: said seal assembly comprises an O-ring and a washer surrounding said stem, said O-ring being located in sealing engagement with the body when the stem closes the threaded hole.

5. (Original) The grease gun of Claim 4 wherein: the washer includes outwardly directed fingers that contact the body to inhibit rotation of the O-ring relative to the stem during turning of the stem.

6. (Original) The grease gun of Claim 1 including: at least one ear joined to the head to facilitate turning of the stem and head.

7. (Previously Presented) A grease gun having a body, a base joined to the body, a barrel joined to the body, a grease dispensing member connected to the barrel, an elongated grease pumping chamber located in said body and barrel, a grease supply passage in said base and body open to said pumping chamber to allow grease to flow into the pumping chamber, a check valve connected to said barrel to prevent grease and air from flowing back from the grease dispensing member into the pumping chamber, a plunger located in said grease pumping chamber, a power unit connected to said body and plunger operable to reciprocate the plunger in said pumping chamber to pump grease through said pumping chamber and check valve into the grease dispensing member, means mounted on the base for supplying grease to the grease supply passage, the improvement comprising: a threaded hole in said body aligned with the grease supply passage and open to the pumping chamber, a threaded stem located in said threaded hole, said stem having an inner end adjacent the pumping chamber and an outer end joined to said head, said stem having at least one linear side groove open to the pumping chamber, said side groove extended from the inner end of the stem about halfway to the outer end thereof, and a head joined to said stem, said head and stem when rotated in one direction opens the side groove to atmosphere whereby air in the pumping chamber and grease supply passage is

bled therefrom and replaced with grease, and said head and stem when rotated in a direction opposite the one direction closes the threaded hole to prevent grease from flowing out of the threaded hole and air from flowing into the pumping chamber.

8. (Original) The grease gun of Claim 7 wherein: said stem has a plurality of side grooves, each of said side grooves extended from the inner end of the stem about halfway to the outer end thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) A grease gun having a body, a base joined to the body, a barrel joined to the body, a grease dispensing member connected to the barrel, an elongated grease pumping chamber located in said body and barrel, a grease supply passage in said base and body open to said pumping chamber to allow grease to flow into the pumping chamber, a check valve connected to said barrel to prevent grease and air from flowing back from the grease dispensing member into the pumping chamber, a plunger located in said grease pumping chamber, a power unit connected to said body and plunger operable to reciprocate the plunger in said pumping chamber to pump grease through said pumping chamber and check valve into the grease dispensing member, means mounted on the base for supplying grease to the grease supply passage, the improvement comprising: a threaded hole in said body open to the pumping chamber, a threaded stem located in said threaded hole, said stem having at least one side groove at one end thereof open to the pumping chamber and closed at the opposite end thereof, said stem when rotated in one direction opens the side groove to atmosphere whereby air in the pumping chamber and grease supply passage is bled therefrom and replaced with grease, said stem when rotated in a direction opposite the one direction closes the threaded hole, and an annular seal assembly surrounding said stem engageable with said body when the stem closes the threaded hole to prevent grease from flowing out of the threaded hole and air from flowing into the pumping chamber.

10. (Original) The grease gun of Claim 9 including: a plurality of linear side grooves in said stem for allowing air to bleed from the pumping chamber and grease supply passage.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) The grease gun of ~~Claim 11 including:~~ Claim 9 including: said seal assembly comprises an O-ring and a washer surrounding said stem, said O-ring being located in sealing engagement with the body when the stem closes the threaded hole.

13. (Original) The grease gun of Claim 12 wherein: the washer includes outwardly directed fingers that contact the body to inhibit rotation of the O-ring relative to the stem during turning of the stem.

14. (Previously Presented) The grease gun of Claim 9 wherein: said stem has an inner end adjacent the pumping chamber and an outer end joined to said head, said side groove extended from the inner end of the stem about halfway to the outer end thereof.

15. (Original) The grease gun of Claim 14 wherein: said stem has a plurality of side grooves, each of said side grooves extended from the inner end of the stem about halfway to the outer end thereof.

16. (Currently Amended) In a grease gun having a body, a grease dispensing member joined to the body, a grease pumping chamber located in the body, a grease supply passage in the body open to said pumping chamber to allow grease to flow into the pumping chamber, the improvement comprising: an air bleed valve mounted on the body in communication with said pumping chamber and in alignment with the grease supply passage, said valve having an open position to allow air to bleed from the pumping chamber and grease supply passage and a closed position, and a seal assembly cooperating with said valve and engageable with said body when

the valve is in the closed position to prevent grease from flowing through the valve and air from flowing into the pumping chamber.

17. (Currently Amended) In a grease gun having a body, a grease dispensing member joined to the body, a grease pumping chamber located in the body, a grease supply passage in the body open to said pumping chamber to allow grease to flow into the pumping chamber, the improvement comprising: an air bleed valve mounted on the body in communication with said pumping chamber and in alignment with the grease supply passage, said valve having an open position to allow air to bleed from the pumping chamber and grease supply passage and a closed position to prevent grease from flowing through the valve and air from flowing into the pumping chamber, said valve having a threaded member having at least one passage open to the pumping chamber, and said body having a threaded hole aligned with the grease supply passage for accommodating the threaded member, said threaded member being selectively rotatable between open and closed positions to open the one passage to atmosphere to allow air to bleed from the pumping chamber and grease supply passage and to close the one passage, and an annular seal assembly surrounding said threaded member engageable with the body when the stem closes the threaded hole to prevent grease from flowing through the one passage and air from flowing through the one passage back into the pumping chamber.

18. (Original) The grease gun of Claim 17 wherein: said passage in the threaded member is at least one side groove open to the pumping chamber for allowing air to bleed from the pumping chamber and grease supply passage.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) The grease gun of ~~Claim 19 wherein:~~ Claim 17 wherein: said seal assembly comprises an O-ring and a washer surrounding said threaded member, said O-

ring being located in sealing engagement with the body when the threaded member closes the threaded hole.

21. (Original) The grease gun of Claim 20 wherein: the washer includes outwardly directed fingers that contact the body to inhibit rotation of the O-ring relative to the threaded member during turning of the threaded member.

22. (Previously Presented) The grease gun of Claim 17 wherein: said threaded member has an inner end adjacent the pumping chamber and an outer end joined to said head, said one passage comprising at least one side groove extended from the inner end of the threaded member about halfway to the outer end thereof.

23. (Original) The grease gun of Claim 22 wherein: said threaded member has a plurality of side grooves, each of said side grooves extended from the inner end of the threaded member about halfway to the outer end thereof.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, and allowance of Claims 1, 2, 4 to 6, 9, 10, 12 to 18 and 20 to 23 along with allowed Claims 7 and 8 is requested.

The allowance of Claims 7 and 8 is noted appreciated.

The allowable subject matter of Claims 3 to 6, 11 to 15 and 19 to 23 is also noted and appreciated.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the annular seal assembly defined in allowable Claim 3. This amendment placed Claim 3 in condition for allowance.

Claim 3 has been cancelled in view of the amendment to Claim 1.

Claims 2 and 4 to 6 depend upon Claim 1. The allowance of Claims 1, 2 and 4 to 6 is requested.

Claim 9 has been amended to included the annular seal assembly defined in allowable

Claim 11. This amendment places Claim 9 in condition for allowance.

Claim 11 has been cancelled in view of the amendment to Claim 9.

Claims 12 to 15 depend on Claim 9. The allowance of Claims 12 to 15 and Claim 9 is requested.

Claim 16 defines an improvement in a grease gun comprising an air bleed valve operable to allow air to bleed from the pumping chamber of the grease gun. A seal assembly cooperating with the valve and engageable with the body of the grease gun when the valve is in its closed position to prevent grease from flowing out of the threaded hole and air from flowing into the pumping chamber. It is noted that *Zabriskie's* vent screw 40 does not cooperate with a seal assembly to prevent grease from flowing out of the threaded hole and air from flowing into the bottom of pumping chamber 17 and discharge passage 18. Valve 40 is closed when valve face 42 contacts the valve seat. *Page 3, lines 11-17.* Applicant requests the allowance of Claim 16.

Claim 17 has been amended to include the annular seal assembly defined in allowable Claim 19. This amendment places Claim 17 in condition for allowance.

Claim 19 has been cancelled in view of the amendment to Claim 17. Claims 18 and 20 to 23 depend upon Claim 17. The allowance of Claims 18 and 20 to 23 along with Claim 17 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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